



Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital unveils the newly renovated Emergency Room

Officials of Aruba's Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital were proud to announce on Monday afternoon the completion of a total renovation of the emergency room facilities and services. Not only has the Eerst Hulp department of the hospital been nearly tripled in size, according to administrators, but a system of classifying incoming patients, used around the world and known as "Triage" will now be put in force. This system, tested and employed by emergency rooms in all nations uses a color coded system to grade the degree of urgency for each patient, so that those requiring immediate care, i.e.: trauma victims in life-threatening condition, will not have to wait.

Ruben Croes, Director of the Emergency Room, and Junior Tromp, Technical Director and Engineer of the Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital welcomed the press for a tour of the renovated facilities and an explanation of the changes. When the hospital was opened thirty-three years ago, the emergency room was 158 square meters, the smallest section of the hospital. At the time, emergency cases totaled perhaps 23,000 per year. With Aruba's increase in population, they find the emergency room caseload has doubled. Specialist doctors that maintained offices in the hospital have moved to private building nearby, and this space has been converted into a more efficient and spacious area occupying 450 square meters.

The new emergency room facilities contain a separate trauma room, heatstroke room, cardio room, new entrance, and reception area, and a cheerful room for children, that will help make a visit to Eerst Hulp less frightening. Each room is outfitted with the special equipment necessary to assist personnel in best performing the specialized duties of each section.

Hospital officials also expressed that they very pleased with the speed in which the renovations were completed, a scant three months, and with the emergency room in full operation during that time. Administration was also proud that the renovations came in on budget, at a cost \$377, 831.97.

The official opening of the new Eerst Hulp facilities will take place this Sunday, August 13, and be performed by His Excellency, the Governor of Aruba, Fredis Refunol. The public is invited to witness and join the celebration, which will take place at the new entrance from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. There will be various activities, performances for children, food for sale, and it will be a festive day for all the family. During the opening day, hospital personnel will conduct tours of the renovated facility, and also explain the new Triage system, and understanding when a visit to the emergency room is truly required. Ruben Croes asserted that the facility will run more efficiently if the public comprehends when they really need to go to the emergency room, or simply wait a day to visit their family doctor, thus reducing the load of unwarranted cases, which take time away from patients that truly require immediate care.

Hospital officials urge islanders to attend the official opening on Sunday; it will be an educational and fun day for all, and of enormous assistance in helping the emergency room services to best serve the public.